

UNEMPLOYMENT

Words are wasted on unemployment, while its basic cause is overlooked. Unemployment exists world-wide. It has a world-wide cause which is simply this: around five billion people share one planet as a workplace and home. No human being made the earth or any part of it, and everyone needs at least a foothold on the earth in order to survive. Therefore, in justice, the world should be shared amongst its inhabitants – as equally as possible.

However, that does not occur. Instead, some human beings own land and natural resources worth millions or even billions of dollars, while others own little or none. Furthermore, it is easier to enlarge an existing holding than to acquire a single freehold foothold on the earth, and the larger and more valuable any holding, the more readily it expands – often in several different directions at once.

As owners and the world's wealthy add to their holdings, land prices go up and up – to place ownership beyond the reach of landless individuals and families, drive millions into unemployment or poorly paid jobs, and force countless others to spend a large percentage of their meagre incomes as rent or as the purchase price of property plus interest. As a result, people everywhere have insufficient funds for living costs, or for the conduct of a successful business in competition with multi-nationals and others who own a generous share of mankind's common home.

In general, only earth owners have funds to lend at interest or invest in shares. So this unjust and unequal spread of landownership constantly transfers money from those with little to those with lots – as rent, interest, dividends and capital gains. Whereupon governments tax all and sundry, and run welfare state economies – to

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send wealth back from whence it came.

This ludicrous situation would make a good plot for a latter-day Gilbert and Sullivan. It would also make way for justice and common sense if the earth was shared amongst the entire human race.

The earth cannot be carved into five billion pieces. But it would be shared *effectively*, if government funds were drawn from land and natural resources – as rates and taxes assessed against the value of sites, or by the direct use of site rent as revenue in lieu of income tax, sales tax, etcetera. These measures would apply an annual holding charge to land, force owners to use sites or market them, allow everyone to acquire whatever land they need, bring rents down to reasonable levels, and eliminate much of the interest now paid on home and commercial property loans.

With a little ingenuity, site rent can be collected as revenue without hurting pensioners, farmers, persons who have invested their savings in land, and those who have bought property recently and are still paying huge amounts of interest.

If any individual or group would like to know how, I would be happy to explain.

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(sent to various places.)